

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FINAL FAREWELL

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, as I reflect on more than four decades of service in the Federal Government—working for our former Southwest Michigan Congressman David Stockman, then President Ronald Reagan, and finally in the U.S. House of Representatives—I am so grateful for the countless folks who have helped along the way including my peers, staff, and wonderful family who have helped me do my best day after day.

“One cannot count on luck. It comes and goes. But one can count on hard work. ALSO, staying out of your OWN way . . . and, for most folks, that’s the hardest part.”—Amey Upton.

I was asked last week what I want to be remembered for, and without a second thought I pointed to a small, simple brass frame with a motto that I picked up from my grandfather’s desk when he passed away at 96 years of age. It read, “When in doubt, do the right thing!” I have kept it at the center of my desk and work at the Capitol all these years.

In this journey, I have been blessed by the sacrifice of many. First and foremost, my wife Amey, who as my best friend for some 40 years has watched me depart practically every week for a trip to Washington, D.C., making 99.9 percent of the nearly 22,000 votes cast. I often was at one of our district offices or community events most days of the week. I still vividly recall the Bangor town meeting on a Halloween Saturday morning in 1987 when the water came down that my wife’s water had broken, and I had better get to the hospital pretty quickly. Then there was my son reminding me not to talk to strangers as a 6-year-old in the Watervliet 4th of July parade or having to miss my daughter’s birthday to participate in a debate during one of my 25 contested elections. Obviously, the sacrifice of family time they all made was something they endured, especially last-minute schedule changes to long-planned family activities.

My staff—such a blessing. Janet Zielke and Joan Hillebrands were with me all 36 years and a number of others more than 20 years. Joan actually started as a legislative correspondent and worked her way to Chief of Staff where she has been steadily guiding our ship for the last 25 years. Corey Hanson, Mitzi Fitzpatrick, and Nivia Marquis are the best in the business at solving IRS, small business, immigration, and veterans’ issues among others. My communications folks handling press on local and national interests were always terrific, Caroline Banaszak and Jamal Ware helped finish up strong. Dale Shugars and Mike Ryan ran my two district offices, and I have known them both for many decades as leaders in their respective communities of Portage and St. Joseph. And before them, Al Pscholka, John Proos, Jeff Breneman, Clay

McCausland, and Jack Baker held those same titles. Kaitlyn Peterson was my front desk traffic cop directing many constituent inquiries. All in all, we handled more than 1 million constituent inquiries. All my staff carried the same passion to do the right thing from the start. Whether it be D.C. staff or here at home, they effectively and proudly served so many thousands of people in our communities.

Every Congressional office is different, but I established ours with my 2 Michigan offices handling my constituent services, and my D.C. staff preparing me on legislative issues. Almost everyone started as an intern, answering the phone, and hearing from constituents by answering the mail (remember, the internet didn’t become widely available until the late 90s). From there, they moved up and were recognized for the experience they gained and dedication they demonstrated. My former scheduler and Officer Manager Bits Thomas started as an intern and then was my “doorkeeper” for a decade before she moved back to Michigan with her family. Her stellar successor, Suzanne Scruggs, once worked for a Cabinet member and is married to one of my first volunteers from 1986, who later became my Legislative Director. He later went to law school at night and now helps run one of the most prestigious firms in Washington.

Alec Zender was with us several years helping our farmers and small businesses, then went to fellow Michigander Rep. JACK BERGMAN.

Last but not least, the point man and architect who shepherded 21st Century Cures, Mark Ratner. As resident comedian and my MSU sports rival, he served as my legislative right-hand man for nearly 20 years.

And the list goes on. I am so proud of our team. I’ve been involved with a long list of issues, so long that there has been little time to stop and “smell the roses.”

It was the late State Senator Harry Gast who convinced me to serve on the House Transportation Committee when I was first elected so I could help complete US-31 connecting three interstates in Berrien County. There were a lot of bumps, potholes, and butterflies along the way, but I am happy to say the project is now complete. Also, my amendment in that first 5-year highway bill increased Michigan’s share of each federal dollar from 72 cents to 90 cents, providing billions that would have otherwise gone to other states. Later helping to widen and improve I-94 with US-131 moving east towards I-69.

Moving from Transportation to the powerful Energy & Commerce Committee in 1991 I had a terrific mentor in Chairman John Dingell. I served as Chair of the Oversight, Telecommunications, & Energy Subcommittees which eventually led to me becoming Chair of the full committee from 2010 to 2016. Speaker Newt Gingrich changed the seniority rules making the chairs compete for the chairmanships with a 6-year term limit. Without that change, I would still be sitting as a senior member of the committee but still not having had a chance to lead it.

Yes, bipartisanship was always a guiding principle. I learned that at the Reagan White House where a GOP President worked with a Democrat-controlled Congress and got things done. Quite frankly, quite a few Americans probably voted with both hands to fill in ballot circles or punch the chad for him in 1980 yet we saw him win in a landslide 4 years later except for Mondale’s Minnesota. I always kept one of Reagan’s mottos in mind, “It doesn’t matter who gets the credit, as long as the job gets done.”

The Great Lakes has always been a top priority for me. I’ve worked to ban micro-beads, ensure water quality funds, establish an oil spill response team, pipeline safety and delivered on a plan with Governor Rick Snyder to replace Line 5 under the Mackinac Bridge at a \$500 million cost. I also spent time ensuring dredging our harbors, battling Asian carp, and authorizing a new lock for the Soo. If the 60-year-old lock went down, it would literally double the Nation’s unemployment as iron ore could not make it to the steel mills for autos, appliances, and our manufacturing industries.

As a vice-chair of the bipartisan Problem Solver’s Caucus (PSC), we met virtually every week and were instrumental in passing the CHIPS and Infrastructure bills to help America remain competitive. We also played a role in the Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) that enabled so many of our small businesses to keep their employees paid during the COVID shutdown and provide a lifeline to maintain their presence.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, I drove through the Pentagon parking lot about an hour before the plane hit the building. General Van Antwerp, whom I had grown up with on my street in St. Joseph, was spared because he was at a meeting out of the building, but a number of his staff were killed. As the Telecommunications Subcommittee Chair, I led a number of colleagues to New York City a few days later, where the rescue mission was still taking place at Ground Zero. We later passed legislation that was the top priority noted by the 9/11 Commission’s report to allocate broadcast spectrum allowing law enforcement to have their own frequency to communicate. We did such by forcing the broadcasters to convert their analogue broadcast signal to digital and selling that newly created spectrum to the highest bidders in the telecommunications industry. This allowed them to produce devices with text and video, which created the 5G network, hundreds of thousands of jobs, and generated revenue to reduce the deficit.

Supporting our troops and our brave veterans was always the easiest vote I cast. Whether it be Agent Orange or Burn Pits benefits or visiting our troops in harm’s way in Iraq or Afghanistan, visiting our military hospitals here and overseas, count me as a grateful American. Allowing our vets to receive medical care in their home community if they prefer versus traveling across the state to a VA facility was also a choice I supported.

I have had the opportunity to have many classified briefings on China, Ukraine, Russia,

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and protecting American interests. We are a free nation because of our brave. It always has been a favorite moment for me to nominate qualified young men and women to attend our military academies. General Emery Upton was in the West Point class with George Custer and later served as Commandant. His statue is on Little Round Top in Gettysburg. And my 98-year-old dad served in World War II, including the Battle of the Bulge.

Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL called the enactment of 21st Century Cures the most important legislative achievement in that Congress when President Obama signed it into law in December 2016. I led a 3-year effort as chair of the Energy & Commerce Committee to pass this legislation, which expedites the FDA approvals of drugs and devices and was coupled with \$45 billion in additional health research funding. We literally held dozens of round table discussions, hearings, meetings with disease groups, the FDA, National Institutes of Health (NIH), pharmaceutical companies, and research institutions like the University of Michigan, MD Anderson, Mayo Clinic, Harvard, and the Milken Institute. Fast forward 4 years to COVID. Pfizer's CEO told his folks that they would spend "whatever it takes" to find a vaccine and thankfully were successful. Cures allowed them to produce the vaccine prior to the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and be able to deliver it across the country the very next day after receiving the EUA in December of 2020. This was probably 6–8 months earlier than would have happened without our legislation, saving hundreds of thousands American lives. Then Vice President Joe Biden played a pivotal hands-on role, and we included the \$1 billion Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot initiative as part of this bill. One of our great sources was Nobel Prize winner immunologist Jim Allison whose breakthroughs have been the answer to thousands.

The terrible events of January 6 continue to dominate the news nearly two years later, including this week's release of the final committee report. That morning, I walked through the House floor back to my Rayburn office where I watched many of the protesters parading under my balcony to the White House grounds. I then watched the President's speech to the crowd on TV before they came back to the Capitol and certainly attempted to violently disrupt the counting of the electoral votes cast by each state. I saw the gallows on the Capitol lawn intended for Mike Pence, and thanked some of the SWAT team members laying exhausted in the Rotunda. Chilling. Michigan was one of the 4 states that was going to be challenged despite the 154,000-vote difference. To date, there is still no credible evidence that our vote was fraudulent. I voted absentee in that election, as I did this last November 8, and I am confident that our system works. Under the law established in the 1800s, it only takes 1 Member from the House and Senate to force the full House and Senate to reconsider. This week the House and Senate adopted a legislative change requiring a minimum of 20 percent of each body to challenge a states' certified count. In my estimation we avoided a massacre of my colleagues on the House floor by only 10–15 minutes. Trump's later statement that he did everything "totally appropriate" was a key factor for my impeachment vote a week later and my support for a bipartisan January 6 con-

gressional commission. In my view, the commission's unanimous support for their report issued this week prevented the facts from being swept under the rug and helped ensure preservation of the peaceful transfer of presidential power.

More than a 1,000 folks provided testimony to get the truth that otherwise never would have been told. Where were these same souls who knew the intimate story when we debated impeachment? Crickets.

One regret I will share was the failure of the Super Committee a dozen years ago to deal with the deficit. It had 6 members of the House and Senate: 6 Republicans and 6 Democrats. The rule was that we had to get 7 votes, and we could never get more than 6 as it turned out. We spent a couple months negotiating different alternatives but could never quite get there. I was one of the "aye" votes with fellow Michigan colleague and Chair of the House Ways & Means Committee Dave Camp, but we were 1 vote short. The looming budget deficit remains a threat that most certainly future leaders must address.

My last 2 days in Congress were action packed. On Wednesday evening, I attended a joint session of Congress in which we heard from the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Earlier this year, I had a chance to listen as Zelenskyy addressed the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus by Zoom. It was encouraging to now see him in person as he makes the compelling case for Ukraine directly to the American people and their representatives. I have had the opportunity during my career to watch presidential national addresses and world leaders speak to the Congress such as Nelson Mandela, Queen Elizabeth, the Pope, and others from around the globe. I was especially proud to listen to President Zelenskyy on one of my very last days serving in the U.S. Congress.

The House and Senate cleared a \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill to keep the government open and funded through the 2023 fiscal year. I voted for the package, funding a number of priorities, including a 10-percent increase in defense spending to \$858 billion. The bill also includes \$1.5 billion for the Advanced Research Projects Agency, that like its defense counterpart, will fund cutting-edge research that has the potential to save millions of lives. This is the next step for 21st Century Cures. The bill also includes \$45 billion to help Ukraine defend its freedom and citizens against Russia's brutal invasion, including barbaric attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure.

I supported Congress acting this year because it avoids the risk of a government shutdown to start the New Year, given the narrow majorities in the House and Senate. A shutdown would threaten America's security and cause disruption to vital domestic programs, including those that help improve health outcomes in our nation. It clears the deck for the next Congress to start fresh on FY '24 rather than mop up unfinished business 4 months into FY '23.

On a closing note, I leave you with the words of a brave young woman:

"How wonderful is it that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."—Anne Frank

RECOGNIZING THE 2022 LORDS AND LADIES OF FAIRFAX

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a dedicated group of men and women in Northern Virginia, the Lords and Ladies of Fairfax.

Every year, each member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors selects two people from his or her district who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service, heroism, or other exceptional commitments and contributions to our community. Since the program's inception in 1984, approximately 720 individuals have earned the honor of being named a Lord or Lady Fairfax by his or her representative on the Board of Supervisors.

This year, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will recognize those individuals who have made tremendous impacts through their support of our public schools, parks, youth sports leagues, arts community, public safety, and human service programs. It is nearly impossible to fully describe the diversity of accomplishments of the honorees. Their efforts contribute greatly to the quality of life for the residents of Fairfax County and are worthy of our praise and sincere appreciation.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2022 Lords and Ladies Fairfax:

At-Large: Lady Nelfred Tilly Blanding and Lord Robert Pizzano, Jr.

Braddock District: Lady Diane Hoffman and Lord Jim Hickey

Dranesville District: Lady Lisa Merkel and Lord Steven Bloom

Hunter Mill District: Lady Raba Alwan Letteri and Lord Kurt Rose

Franconia District: Lady Juana Cruz and Lord Edward D. Joseph

Mason District: Lady Honorable Penney Azcarate and Lord Eduardo "Eddy" Azcarate

Mount Vernon District: Lady Maria Severa Pangelinan and Lord Jeff Gauger

Providence District: Lady Robbie Snow and Lord Rafael L. Marin

Springfield District: Lady Caroline Sieber and Lord Sam Gray

Sully District: Lady Malini Puli and Lord Sekhar Puli

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending and expressing our gratitude to these men and women who volunteer their time and energy on behalf of our community. Their efforts, which are deserving of our highest praise, provide immeasurable benefits to their fellow residents and serve as a reminder of why Fairfax County remains such a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

RECOGNIZING NICOLE DAMASCO FOR HER DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing my Chief of Staff, Nicole Damasco, for her outstanding commitment and dedication to serving California's 9th Congressional District, the former

11th Congressional District of California, the great state of California, and our country. Nicole is one of the most exceptional staff members, leaders, and public servants that I have had the pleasure of working with, and it has been an honor to have had her leading my staff for the past 16 years during my time in Congress.

Nicole was born in Las Vegas, Nevada, and grew up wanting to make positive change in her country and the world. Her father and stepmother, Jude and Julia Damasco, instilled in her a strong work ethic and the importance of serving the community and those in need, and she credits her grandmother, Maria Damasco, for being an inspiration in her life and always being there for her. Throughout high school, she spent time registering voters in San Francisco and the Bay Area and volunteering for the San Francisco Democratic Party. Although she is a talented artist and studied architecture in Italy during college, she felt the best way to make a difference in her community was to pursue a career in public service. She transferred to University of California, Santa Cruz to pursue a degree in Politics. While there, she interned for the Santa Cruz County Women's Commission for 2 years and participated in the University of California, Washington DC (UCDC) program, interning in Senator Barbara Boxer's Washington, DC office.

After graduating from University of California, Santa Cruz in 2002, Nicole was hired as a Constituent Representative in Senator Barbara Boxer's office in San Francisco. She proved to be a skilled and dedicated employee and was soon promoted to Assistant to the Director of Constituent Services. In 2004, she became a Legislative Correspondent in Senator Boxer's Los Angeles office and was part of a team that changed how legislative correspondence was handled by transitioning to a centralized, digitized, state-based constituent correspondence system. It was an innovative approach that allowed the Senator to quickly receive and send constituent responses. Nicole did not know it at the time, but her team helped lay the groundwork for how state and district-based constituent correspondence is now handled in many congressional offices.

In 2006, Nicole returned to the Bay Area and continued to work in Senator Boxer's San Francisco office. During that time, she volunteered for my Congressional campaign because she felt that I could truly help improve the lives of people in our community. Thanks to the hard work by many excellent staff and volunteers like Nicole, I was elected to Congress that same year, and I asked Nicole to join my team as my Director of Constituent Services and Field Representative. Nicole went to work right away, laying the foundation for and building my casework, field outreach, and constituent services programs from the ground up. She made it her mission to make sure that everyone who reached out to my office for assistance would receive the best service possible. She ensured that quality constituent service was engrained in the culture of my office. Thanks in large part to her tireless efforts, I am proud to say that my office has helped many thousands of individuals over the years.

It was clear that Nicole was a natural leader when I hired her, and I promoted her to District Director in less than a year of her being on my staff. She took over, leading my entire

District team at a time when people in the country and my district were hurting the most. During the subprime mortgage crisis in 2008, people were losing their jobs, homes, and lifesavings. Continuing to lead with a constituent-focused approach to her work, Nicole put together a team that would be laser focused on serving the people of California's 11th and 9th Congressional Districts throughout those difficult times. She immediately acted to help organize the first-of-its-kind housing and mortgage assistance events in the country with the purpose of keeping people in their homes. She also helped organize job fairs and events that connected thousands of people with jobs, and made sure struggling veterans and seniors were informed of and received the services available to them. I know without a doubt that because of Nicole's perseverance and tenacity, we made an impact on many people and were there for them during some of the darkest periods of their lives.

Nicole stood tall and helped lead my team, all while facing great adversity herself. At the beginning of her career with my office, she provided care for her half-sister, Jessica, who ended up tragically taking her life in 2009. Nicole's stepfather and grandfather had also taken their lives shortly before, all of which took a toll on her mother and made it clear that Nicole needed to step up and help care for her other half-sister, Alaina. Throughout all this tragedy, Nicole kept a brave face, continuing to work hard and lead my office while also becoming Alaina's legal guardian and providing a stable home for her sister. Unfortunately, Nicole's mother also ended up taking her life, but thanks in part to Nicole's support, her sister has thrived, graduating from high school and with highest honors from University of California, Berkeley, studying and traveling around the world, and starting a successful career of her own. Nicole is very proud of her sister's accomplishments and is grateful for the special bond they share.

After serving as my District Director during some of the greatest challenges in our nation's history and following some very hard-fought campaigns, I asked Nicole to move across the country and become my Chief of Staff. She didn't hesitate and since 2013, she has led my team as Chief of Staff with great dedication and conviction. Due largely to Nicole's efforts, my office has had one of the highest retention rates and one of the most diverse staffs in Congress. Throughout her time as Chief of Staff, she has greatly contributed to my success in Congress, helping move forward my legislative priorities and those of my district.

As a strong leader and with her creative, out-of-the-box thinking, Nicole empowered and motivated my staff to take every opportunity to serve my district and lead on important issues that make a difference in people's lives. This was especially evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, at which time Nicole immediately transitioned my staff to remote work and successfully kept my office operating at full capacity to continue serving our constituents and bring them the most up-to-date information without knowing what the days, weeks, and months ahead had in store.

Throughout my time in office, Nicole has helped pave the way for my major accomplishments, from the long-awaited construction of a veterans' clinic in French Camp, to helping improve our water, technology, energy, and envi-

ronmental policy. Nicole made sure that my constituents and my district always came first and that bringing services and resources to our community always remained the priority.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that Nicole's dedication to serving others not only extends to humans but to animals, too. Over the years, she has opened her home to over 15 animals—including rabbits, cats, dogs, a hamster, and even an iguana. Nicole has also personally rescued over 25 stray and injured animals from the streets of my district. She took them in, rehabilitated, and rehomed them, and with the invaluable and generous help of Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary in Stockton, ensured that the animals that crossed her path found good, loving homes. Her heart knows no bounds, and she continuously demonstrates the true meaning of selflessness.

Nicole's colleagues describe her as compassionate, understanding, and always there for them when they need her, no matter how big or small the issue. She does everything possible to see that staff have the tools and support they need to see the job through. Beyond being a boss and supervisor, Nicole is a friend and mentor to many and is there for the team when they need advice and support.

Nicole Damasco is an outstanding employee, boss, colleague, friend, mentor, and leader. Her commitment, focus, kindness, and compassion are unrivaled. She has dedicated over 20 years of her life to public service and is the embodiment of what a public servant should be. Throughout my career in Congress, she has supported me and my team and has made a lasting impact on the lives of my constituents. With great appreciation and admiration for her, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Nicole Damasco for her distinguished and invaluable service.

HONORING MR. BILLY JOHNSON

HON. DAVID ROUZER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of William (Billy) Harrison Johnson who was recently named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year by North Carolina State University College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS). Billy earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from NC State in 1986, and in recent years he has served on the NC State School of Public and International Affairs Advisory Board as well as the CHASS Dean's Board. These roles provide him with the opportunity to assist both students and alumni with educational and career-related opportunities in Washington, D.C.

Billy received this prestigious award at the annual Evening of the Stars, which honors those alumni whose success increases the value of an NC State degree and add to North Carolina State University's growing legacy of excellence, impact, and service. As a proud alumnus myself, I salute Billy for his hard earned achievements and commend his efforts to assist NC State's next generation of leaders.

As the chief lobbyist for the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), Billy serves as a leading voice on Capitol Hill for both small and commercial businesses in the recycling field. Long a champion of the recycled

materials industry, Billy helped establish the bipartisan Congressional Recycling Caucus in 2004 to educate lawmakers regarding the economic and environmental benefits of recycling. Billy helped draft and enact the bipartisan RECYCLE Act, the first standalone piece of recycling legislation in history providing funding for public education and awareness programs to improve our country's recycling system. From 2004 to 2008, Billy also served as a judge of the White House Federal Recycling Initiative "Closing-the-Loop" Awards Program.

Billy has a proven record of helping members understand the importance of the recycling industry through Washington and district fly-ins, one-on-one meetings with congressional offices, and more. In 2021, his achievements led to his recognition by the National Institute for Lobbying and Ethics as one of the top 100 lobbyists in America for his demonstrated commitment to give back to the community and profession while adhering to the highest ethical standards.

Billy accepted this award along with several distinguished alumni including: Bryan K. Blinson—College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Dr. Philip Snider—College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Turan Duda—College of Design; Johnny L. Crow—College of Education; Quint M. Barefoot—College of Engineering; Dan Pleasant—College of Engineering; Mark Wyatt—College of Engineering; Amir S. Mehr—Poole College of Management; Kenneth O. Summerville—College of Natural Resources; Nora Ann Gardner—College of Sciences; Brian L. McMurray—Wilson College of Textiles; Sarah J. Ewing—College of Veterinary Medicine. John C. Borden was awarded the Ronnie Shavlik Award. Other awards were presented to Kevin M. Kroeger—Outstanding Young Alumnus; John F. Tesh Jr.—Award of Merit; and Ben Kinney—Meritorious Service Award.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to congratulate and recognize Billy as well as all the other Evening of the Stars award recipients for their outstanding accomplishments. They have all made—and continue to make—Wolfpack Nation proud.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF COLONEL PETER J. WEINA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Colonel Peter J. Weina, PhD, MD, FACP, FIDSA upon his retirement from the Office of Research Protections at the Defense Health Agency. Colonel Weina has served for 45 years in various federal capacities, and his dedicated service will be sorely missed.

Colonel Weina joined the United States Army right out of high school and completed both a bachelor's and a master's degree in zoology at the University of Wisconsin Madison. As a second lieutenant, he completed a Ph.D. in pathology and parasitology, also at UW Madison. After four years at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR), he entered medical school at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences. Mr. Weira then completed an internship and residency in internal medicine at Tripler Army Medical Cen-

ter and a fellowship in infectious diseases at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Colonel Weina, a board-certified doctor in both internal medicine and infectious diseases, also holds a Certificate of Knowledge in clinical tropical medicine and travelers' health. From his time as Chief of Pharmacology at WRAIR and subsequently as Director of Viral Diseases, to his fellowships with the American College of Physicians and the Infectious Diseases Society of America, Colonel Weina has proven himself a competent leader and a measured presence in the medical field.

Over his illustrious career, Colonel Weina has published over 70 articles in peer-reviewed journals, five chapters in books, and two books of his own. He has worked to expand the availability and licensure of intravenous Artesunate, the first new anti-malarial drug since the advent of quinine over 300 years ago. In 2020, this life-saving treatment was licensed by the Food and Drug Administration.

Colonel Weina formerly headed the only College of American Pathologists-accredited leishmania diagnostics laboratory in the world. He has received numerous awards for his work, including the Federal CDC Silo Buster's Collaborative Award of Excellence in 2008, the Colonel George W. Hunter III Certificate in 2011, and the Bronze Star for Service. Colonel Weina's accolades extend far beyond these, as many have recognized his courage, passion, and dedication to bettering his community. He has combined the opportunity to serve his country with the chance to advance our medical knowledge and capabilities, and our nation is better off for his efforts.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colonel Peter J. Weina for his 45 years of service to the United States. His contributions to our Nation are innumerable and his impact has been felt by countless Americans. He has been an inspiration and a mentor to the next generation of health professionals, and I wish him the best in his retirement and may happiness and success find him in all future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSS FULCHER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. FULCHER. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 544, S. 989.

RECOGNIZING LT. COL. ERIC VAN DE HEY

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifetime of service to the American people by Lieutenant Colonel Eric Van De Hey.

Lt. Col. Van De Hey is retiring after 35 years of selfless service to the United States. Since enlisting in 1987, he has dedicated his career in the U.S. Army to serving both his fel-

low soldiers and the United States. First and foremost, he has been a leader to many young soldiers, as he has trained soldiers at all levels of responsibility. He utilized his strong leadership skills while leading tactical platoons, strategic detachments, and serving in federal agencies. During his time in the Army, Lt. Col. Van De Hey served valiantly in many conflicts and missions including Operation Just Cause, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. For his service he earned numerous awards and commendations including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Valorous Unit Citation, the Meritorious Unit Citation, and the Combat Action Badge. His multiple deployments and awards are another clear example of his impressive dedication to serving our country.

Throughout his career, Lt. Col. Van De Hey has played a significant role in ensuring the safety of our troops while leading our military into the next generation of warfighting. As the Executive Officer in charge of Test Parachutists, he ensured that Army parachutes were safe and reliable for our service members. Lt. Col. Van De Hey was also responsible for overseeing great technological advancements for the military, such as research into self-driving cars and the use of satellite images to monitor humanitarian crises. It is evident through these accolades that Lt. Col. Van De Hey has committed his career to serving the United States of America and the Army.

As Lt. Col. Van De Hey returns to private life, it is my honor to recognize his years of service in the United States military. I invite all members of this body to join me in congratulating Lt. Col. Eric Van De Hey and his family on his retirement. Our Nation is safer because of Lt. Col. Van De Hey's unwavering service and commitment to his country.

RECOGNIZING THE 2022 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL'S SEEFELDT AWARDEES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2022 Prince William County Arts Council's Seefeldt Awardees. These Awards for Arts Excellence were established nearly two decades ago in honor of Kathleen Kenna Seefeldt, a former Chairwoman of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors. These awards recognize and celebrate the artists, art organizations, volunteers, educators, and businesses that build upon the foundation in which Ms. Seefeldt's legacy of supporting the cultural arts.

Kathleen Seefeldt moved to Prince William County in 1970 and her deep love for her newfound community inspired her to run for office. She was elected to the Board and served as the Occoquan District Supervisor for fifteen years before being elected the first at-large chair of the Board in 1991. Her two terms as chair led to Prince William County's economic and cultural growth, and her emphasis on incorporating the arts has helped Prince William become the thriving community it is today.

This honorary award in her name celebrates the many artistic achievements in Prince William County. This year's honorees have done

tremendous work to continue Kathleen Seefeldt's legacy. These awardees have tirelessly dedicated themselves to the promotion and expansion of the artistic elements that make Prince William County so special.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2022 Prince William County Arts Council's Seefeldt Award Recipients:

Lynn Godino, Outstanding Volunteer in the Arts

Lukman Ahmad, Outstanding Patron of the Arts

James Villani, Outstanding Individual Artist
Manassas Ballet Theatre, Outstanding Arts Organization

Prince William Living, Outstanding Business Supporter of the Arts

Dr. Laura Cherry, Outstanding Arts Educator

This celebration is also of particular significance in that it also serves as the 30th anniversary of the Prince Williams County Arts Council's founding. For three decades now, the Arts Council has celebrated the artistic accomplishments of our community. Their work has kept Prince William County a wonderful place to live and work, and has attracted artistic talent from all over, helping expand our diverse community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the 2022 Prince William County Arts Council's Seefeldt Awardees. These talented, expressive, and dedicated individuals have committed themselves to the preservation of an admirable legacy and have made their community more beautiful at every turn along the way.

RECOGNIZING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERANS MONUMENT IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK

HON. CHRIS JACOBS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the Western New York Community in commending the honorable service of African American veterans throughout the history of the United States military.

The recently unveiled African American Veterans Monument in Buffalo, New York, highlights the contributions made by African American service members to our country. These contributions cannot be understated.

I commend all who supported the development and construction of this project, including the Erie County Chapter of the Links for taking the steps necessary to honor these veterans. This unique monument now stands as a symbol and reminder on the Buffalo waterfront to all Western New Yorkers of the sacrifices that these brave individuals made to preserve our freedoms.

From the Revolutionary War onwards, 2.1 million African Americans served this country with unconditional valor. Over 90 African Americans have been awarded the Medal of Honor, our nation's preeminent military commendation. Out of admiration for these esteemed veterans, many of Western New York's community leaders banded together to demonstrate our thanks for their sacrifices—a gesture that many of us believe is long overdue.

The symbolism undergirding this monument uniquely pairs with the traits displayed by the generations of African American men and women who have served our country. Located at the Erie County Naval & Military Park, the monument consists of 12 pillars representing the 12 military conflicts in which these veterans demonstrated their strength, courage, and patriotism. The top of each pillar is illuminated by a beacon of light, referencing the practice that active-duty military families used to guide their loved ones home. These illuminations will glow eternally, along with our nation's everlasting appreciation to its African American servicemembers.

We must continue to recognize and commemorate those who sacrificed on behalf of our nation and fought on our country's many historic battlefields. Our selfless and courageous African American veterans of Western New York and the greater United States will forever be remembered within our local community. It is my honor to represent these veterans, along with the members of our community who crafted this historic monument.

HONORING JAMES HOLMES

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifetime of achievement of Mr. James Holmes.

Following decades of service to the Culpeper community and 35 years of service to the Culpeper County Electoral Board, Mr. Holmes is stepping down as current Chair of the Board at the end of this year.

Growing up in Culpeper, James Holmes attended George Washington Carver School and was among the first integrated classes at Culpeper High School.

Mr. Holmes' determination to improve our Commonwealth for future generations of Virginians brought him back to Culpeper after he graduated Cum Laude from Virginia Union University and earned his JD from Howard Law School.

A licensed ordained Baptist minister who has pastored in Culpeper for decades, Mr. Holmes has held many positions with the Wayland Blue Ridge Baptist Association.

From his service on the Electoral Board to casting an Electoral Vote in 2008 for our first Black president, James Holmes has demonstrated a commitment to civic engagement and elevating the voices of Virginians within his community.

Mr. Holmes has touched many lives throughout his career—as President of Culpeper Housing and Shelter Services, President of Culpeper County United Way, President of the Culpeper County Equalization Board, and as a caring member of his community.

Today, I thank James Holmes for his commitment to progress, equality, and community empowerment.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF LT. COL. DAN WAGNER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable career of Lieutenant Colonel Dan Wagner upon his retirement from the United States Army after 20 years of selfless service to our Nation. Lt. Col Dan Wagner has made immeasurable contributions in service to our great Nation.

Lt. Col Wagner was spurred to action by the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and joined the Army shortly thereafter. He has since had an exemplary military career. Over the course of his service, his assignments included three years of tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, and other areas with both conventional and special operations units.

Prior to his retirement this summer, he served as a legislative liaison for U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) in Washington, D.C. Lt. Col Wagner focused on developing and executing legislative strategies to secure support for a \$12 billion budget, including appropriations and authorizations for Joint Special Operations, Special Mission Units, and Intelligence.

On behalf of special operators for operational and programmatic issues of Congressional interest, Lt. Col Wagner coordinated with several offices in the Department of Defense, including the Offices of the Secretary of Defense, Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense Special Access Programs Coordination Office, and Geographic Combat Commanders.

Using his extensive experience with the inner workings of the Pentagon, Geographic Combatant Commands, and the National Security Council, Lt. Col Wagner served as a senior representative for USSOCOM to the Central Intelligence Agency on national security and counterterrorism issues. He worked to revamp policies both global and internal, as well as to coordinate de-confliction and synchronization efforts.

Lt. Col Wagner served on the Army Staff in Legislative Affairs where he maintained the intelligence portfolio for the Secretary of the Army. He also served in the personal office of Rep. Mike Rogers, Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Prior to joining the Army, Lt. Col Wagner was a small business owner in Southeastern Ohio. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations from DePaul University and a Masters in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University. Additionally, Lt. Col Wagner completed the Manage Mentor Program for Business, Management and Marketing at Harvard University.

Lt. Col Wagner is a passionate and selfless leader who has devoted his career to ensuring military operators receive the intelligence and support they need to keep our Nation safe. Madam Speaker, I ask that my fellow colleagues please join me in thanking Lt. Col Wagner and his family for their service as they enter the next chapter of their lives.

SUPPORTING FY23 OMNIBUS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2023.

I want to thank Chair DELAURO for her tireless work to finish this legislation—she deserves great credit.

As Chair of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I marked up the House Defense bill to President Biden's original request of \$761.7 billion.

I felt his number was an appropriate level of funding for our national security.

While I agree that we must make adjustments based on inflation and other global events, I am disappointed in the Senate's insistence on increasing defense spending at the expense of domestic priorities.

We must realize that our national security is not defined by defense dollars alone—we damage our national security when we don't adequately address the needs of the American people: in education, health care, and other critical investments here at home.

Turning to the Defense bill—for Fiscal Year 2023 we provide \$797.7 billion, \$69.3 billion above the 2022 enacted level.

We know that all Americans are struggling with higher prices—and that includes our men and women in uniform—so we have prioritized investing in our most important national security asset, our service members and their families.

This Defense bill puts people first—by including:

A 4.6 percent pay raise for our service members;

And an increase of 11 percent to the Basic Allowance for Housing, and the Basic Allowance for Subsistence—which will help offset the cost of rising rent and food prices.

I am very proud that this bill also invests in:

Confronting the climate crisis—with more than \$2 billion in clean energy programs and funding to add resilience to DoD installations from the impacts of climate change.

Over \$39 billion for Defense Health and medical research, including over \$582 million for cancer research.

And \$1.6 billion in Environmental Restoration programs, including over \$250 million for PFOS remediation and disposal research.

This bill also continues our commitment to helping the Ukrainian people defend their democracy against Russian aggression by providing robust funding for the Ukraine Security Initiative and other NATO allies and partners in Europe.

The time has come for Congress to finish our work, pass this omnibus, and fund the entire federal government.

DECLARING ARCHIVED RECORDS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS TO BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, as Chair of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, I wish to include in the RECORD a letter Vice Chair WILLIAM TIMMONS and I sent on December 22 to the Acting Archivist of the United States. The letter communicates our committee's designation of all records that the Archivist receives for archiving, as our committee draws to a close, as available for public use.

This letter takes an important step towards the kind of openness that the Modernization Committee has championed as part of our over 200 recommendations and over 40 hearings held since the beginning of the 116th Congress to make the institution more effective, efficient, and transparent on behalf of the American people. Having our records available for public use will also aid future reform committees, researchers, and the public alike to advance the cause of modernization going forward.

I ask my colleagues to join me in taking this important step towards recognizing the value of transparency and the legacy of the Modernization Committee.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, December 22, 2022.

MS. DEBRA STEIDEL WALL,
Acting Archivist of the United States, The United States National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. WALL: As Chair and Vice Chair of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress ("Modernization Committee"), we are writing to let you know that we consider any and all Modernization Committee records that you receive from the Office of the Clerk for purposes of archiving to be available for public use, in accordance with Clause 3 of House Rule VII.

Established in the 116th Congress and extended through the 117th Congress, the Modernization Committee has been tasked to investigate, study, make findings, hold public hearings, and develop recommendations to make Congress more effective, efficient, and transparent on behalf of the American people. To this end, we have issued over 200 recommendations and held over 40 hearings over the last four years to improve the day-to-day functioning of the House.

A pillar of the Modernization Committee's work has been to enhance the transparency of the House and of the legislative process. As such, we believe it is important to make our archived materials available for the public as soon as possible.

In addition, one of our final recommendations was that the House "should authorize a Modernization Select Committee at least every fourth Congress." If the House implements this recommendation, a future select committee would benefit tremendously from having our records and analyses at its immediate disposal, as these documents collectively constitute a wealth of information about our work and the issues that our members and staff discussed.

Absent a committee order, we understand our archived records would remain sealed for up to 30 years by default under Rule VII. For

the above reasons, though, we wish to make you aware that, should you receive requests from other committees or interested parties, we consider the records reserved from our committee for archiving to be available for public use. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

DEREK KILMER,
Member of Congress.
WILLIAM R. TIMMONS IV,
Member of Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
SEWA INTERNATIONAL USA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of the thousands of Sewa International USA employees to assist underserved communities around the world throughout the Coronavirus pandemic.

Sewa International USA was founded in 2003 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity organization. Comprised of 43 chapters with more than 5,000 volunteers across the country, Sewa workers take inspiration from the Hindu principles of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—meaning "the whole world is one family"—and Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinaḥ—meaning "may all be happy." These complementary outlooks have driven volunteers to serve humanity in times of distress.

This service takes many forms. Sewa volunteers work with local communities to coordinate developmental projects and mobilize partners, donors, and on-the-ground volunteers to make meaningful changes in the face of disaster. Sewa has organized volunteer service in the wake of 30 disasters over the last two decades, including the recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Hurricane Harvey in 2017, and the California wildfires in 2019 and 2020. Internationally, they have assisted after some of the world's greatest crises in recent memory, from Haiti's 2012 earthquake to Pakistan's 2013 flooding to the evacuation efforts from ongoing war in Ukraine.

As Russia's invasion of Ukraine rages on, Sewa International volunteers are conducting massive evacuation efforts to help thousands of students escape the violence. Their erroneous network has been invaluable in the last few years, providing \$15 million worth of food, PPE, and medical supplies to those in need. Regardless of the type of crisis, Sewa International always finds meaningful ways to help.

Without regard for race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality, Sewa International USA has done tremendous work to ameliorate the effects of some of the world's greatest disasters. Hundreds of thousands of people benefit from their work every year, and I am proud to represent some of these volunteers in Congress. These volunteers work tirelessly across the globe to aid those who are most vulnerable, and it is no surprise that they are one of the seven key trusted partners of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the extraordinary service of Sewa International USA and their thousands of volunteers. Their work over the last two decades has been invaluable in recovery

efforts around the globe, and reminds us all to take every opportunity we have to assist those around us. I wish them every continued success in their efforts to bring our one family closer together and promote happiness for all.

HONORING LINDA COHEN ON HER
RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Linda Cohen. Professional Staff Member for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on the occasion of her retirement after a long and distinguished career in government service. I am pleased to be joined in extending my congratulations by Rep. HIMES, Rep. CARSON, Rep. SPEIER, Rep. QUIGLEY, Rep. SWALWELL, Rep. CASTRO, Rep. WELCH, Rep. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, Rep. DEMINGS, Rep. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Rep. COOPER, Rep. CROW, Rep. RUPPERSBERGER, Rep. MIKE THOMPSON, Rep. LANGEVIN and Rep. SCHAKOWSKY.

A native New Yorker, Linda joined the Intelligence Committee nearly 15 years ago after a career at the Central Intelligence Agency. The details of her career at the CIA cannot be recorded here but suffice to say she served in a number of sensitive positions at the Agency spanning from the days of the Cold War through the September 11 attacks and the War on Terror.

Upon joining the Committee in 2007 as CIA monitor, Linda brought with her a knowledge of the inner workings of the Agency and the business of intelligence rarely found outside the halls of Langley. Yet for all her experience at the Agency, she brought to her role as overseer a skeptical approach and a fierce determination to hold the IC to the highest standards in accomplishing its mission and staying true to our values.

As Members of the Intelligence Committee can all attest, the work of the committee is challenged by the uniquely secret and sensitive matters under the committee's jurisdiction. Unlike other committees that can rely on outside experts or the media, the Intelligence Committee must rely heavily on its expert staff to surface oversight issues and to pursue them with vigor and skill.

Linda possesses those traits in spades, and Members of the Intelligence Committee from both parties have benefited from Linda's expertise and her passion for the mission. I cannot detail here many of her contributions, but they are numerous, and the Nation is safer and better for her service.

Madam Speaker, Linda Cohen has dedicated her career in service of his country, and I ask that you join with me today to acknowledge her tremendous contributions to the security of the United States of America.

SUPPORTING THE CHEROKEE NATION'S 1835 TREATY OF NEW ECHOTA

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Chickasaw Nation and co-chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus, I have always voiced my support for the federal government to honor its treaty obligations.

For far too long in our Nation's history, the federal government accumulated a sorry record of making promises to tribes and then breaking those promises as soon as it was expedient to do so. Only in recent years has that record started to improve.

Last month the Rules Committee held a hearing on one of these treaty rights: a delegate to the House of Representatives as enumerated in the Cherokee Nation's 1835 Treaty of New Echota. This hearing marked an important step in examining this specific treaty and understanding the legal and procedural factors surrounding this issue.

I'm very proud that we held this hearing and want to thank Chairman MCGOVERN for his leadership and the committee's willingness to highlight tribal sovereignty.

The conversations that we had in the Rules Committee that day are a starting point for other committees of jurisdiction to study this matter further and address some of the lingering questions surrounding this. As this work continues, all such claims by tribes that possess them should be considered and examined as well.

RECOGNIZING THE 2022 EXCELLENCE IN SALES HONOREES PRESENTED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE IN SALES & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2022 recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Woman in Sales Leadership Award, the IES Member of the Year, the Rising Sales Star Award, and the Sales Speaker of the Year presented by the Institute for Excellence in Sales & Business Development (IES).

IES was created to foster excellence in business sales and development practices to help sales professionals and organizations maximize their efforts. IES conducts a variety of workshops and programs to provide the tools necessary to advance the careers and growth of those who attend. Each year, IES recognizes individuals, teams, and organizations throughout the United States who demonstrate exemplary performance through leadership, risk taking, innovation, vision, and customer development. The Sales Excellence awards seek to promote corporate and organizational sales excellence by recognizing leaders in Enterprise Sales.

The recipient of the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award is Mr. Dave Rey, the President of

Sales for the Global Public Sector at Salesforce. Over his nine-year career with Salesforce, he has driven the company's continued growth and facilitated public sector business across the continent. He has decades of experience supporting the public sector, and his expertise has been invaluable in performing much of our nation's best work.

Ms. Jennifer Chronis, Senior Vice President of Public Sector at Verizon, is the recipient of this year's Woman in Sales Leadership Award. She has led a team of professionals to work with Verizon's federal, state, local, education, and public safety partners to deliver innovative technology solutions and services, including the Verizon Frontline platform for first responders.

The 2022 IES Member of the Year is sales consultant and author Mr. Vince Burruano. He has worked to recruit, coach, develop, and lead sales professionals across multiple industries, most recently as the Vice President of Sales for the Commercial Division of JK Moving Services. His experience in challenging paradigms has led to his trusted reputation, and his customer-centric approach sets a famously high bar.

Ms. Lauryn Scott is the recipient of the Jay Nussbaum Rising Sales Star Award due to her work as a dynamic sales leader at Cvent, providing software solutions at every stage of an event. Her growth mindset has contributed to the success of her account managers, with many exceeding annual quotas. Lauryn believes that anyone can sell if they are willing to learn, and I am proud of her accomplishments.

Lee Salz is the 2022 IES Sales Speaker of the Year. He has written two books, the most recent of which has become a bestseller. His inspirational story of finding a need in his community and meeting it perfectly embodies what it means to be an entrepreneur. He understands the value in what he sells, and shares that understanding with his community to ensure that everyone's needs are met. He teaches others how to differentiate themselves from those around them, celebrating individual identities and accommodating unmet needs.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dave Rey, Jennifer Chronis, Vince Burruano, Lauryn Scott, and Lee Salz for their exceptional dedication and leadership within the business community. Their dedication to bettering themselves, their organizations, and their communities has made the 11th District of Virginia better.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call No. 540, I mistakenly voted NAY when I intended to vote AYE.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I regretably missed Roll Call No. 514 on December

8, 2022. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. ROBERT EICHORN

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the work of Dr. Robert Eichorn who is retiring after two decades of work as an educator. While a Prince William County Principal, Dr. Eichorn's dedicated service has led Independence Nontraditional School to be named the first ever model school by the National Alternative Education Association. His work to meet the needs of an often underserved community has made education and achievement more accessible to Virginia's youth.

Dr. Eichorn has pushed to reimagine education for students, instructors, and the broader Prince William community. He is a fierce advocate for the socioeconomically disadvantaged children of Virginia and has implemented a learner-centric curriculum to meet the needs of the individual. Dr. Eichorn has been an advocate and practitioner for over thirty years, and his efforts have been crucial in the fight for educational equity.

For years, Dr. Eichorn has served as the principal at Independence Nontraditional School, which serves students from kindergarten through 12th grade. The school provides a full curriculum, including music, foreign language, Advanced Placement, and engineering courses. The school also offers internships within their career and technical education trades programs. The primary focus at Independence is to meet the individual needs of every student with tailored instruction. For those who may need a little extra assistance or a second chance, Independence Nontraditional School offers the resources that disadvantaged young people need to achieve their fullest potential.

Dr. Eichorn has been the recipient of multiple awards for his tireless efforts. He was named Prince William County Schools' 2017–18 Principal of the Year. In 2020, the National Association of Secondary School Principals named him a Digital Principal of the Year for his leadership through the COVID–19 pandemic. He shepherded navigated his school as they implemented new technologies to expand access to students and to maintain a semblance of normalcy throughout unprecedented hardship.

As the first model school highlighted by the National Alternative Education Association, Independence has illuminated the successes made possible when our educators strive to develop integrity, ingenuity, and intellect in every student. With the right resources, we must hope to recruit more educators who exemplify the dedication and talent that Dr. Eichorn has demonstrated.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Robert Eichorn for his unwavering dedication to the young people of Prince William County. He has made every effort to ensure that all children have access to the resources they need for a rich and prom-

ising education. His students and colleagues alike have expressed their sincere appreciation for his tremendous service. Dr. Eichner has truly lived up to the Prince William County Public Schools motto, "Providing a World-Class Education." I wish him the best in his retirement and thank him for the service he provided our community.

INTRODUCTION OF BLOCKED RAIL CROSSINGS SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2022

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Blocked Rail Crossings Safety Improvement Act of 2022. This language reflects policies developed in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where I am proud to serve.

There is a serious and dangerous problem of blocked railroad crossings across the country, with freight trains blocking at-grade crossings in urban and suburban communities across the country. In my district, Indianapolis is experiencing an increasing frequency of blocked railroad crossings by freight trains. Trains are growing longer and longer. Downtown rail crossings have been blocked for unacceptably long periods, including one incident that lasted over 3 hours. This not only interrupts business operations and normal traffic, but it threatens public safety—especially when emergency vehicles must be re-routed.

This is why we must pass legislation to address this problem. The Blocked Rail Crossings Safety Improvement Act will help fix this problem. The language is based on provisions passed by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and passed by the House in the INVEST Act. These provisions, which I recommended, place limits on how long crossings can be blocked, and impose penalties for blocking crossings. While I appreciated and supported the limited provisions included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, I don't believe they went far enough. More must be done.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Blocked Rail Crossings Safety Improvement Act.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONER SYLVIA MURPHY

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of former Monroe County Commissioner and first responder Sylvia Murphy. From the age of 18, when she first moved to Monroe County, Commissioner Murphy spent her life serving the Florida Keys in many ways.

Sylvia Murphy was elected County Commissioner for District 5, which covers the Upper Keys from North Key Largo to Tavernier, in 2006, where she served for 14 years. Before

becoming commissioner, she served the public as an EMT with Monroe County Emergency Medical Services and with the Tavernier Volunteer Fire Department, where she spent 2 decades.

Commissioner Murphy was a tireless champion for the Florida Keys. Her proudest accomplishment was brokering the deal that purchased the land that became Key Largo's Rowell's Park, located at mile marker 104. She was remembered by friends and colleagues as a tenacious public servant who truly loved the Florida Keys.

Sylvia Murphy will be remembered for her lifelong service to the Florida Keys, and her life of service will remain a role model for so many in our community. It was an honor knowing commissioner Murphy. She will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. BAIRD

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, due to travel constraints, I was unable to cast two votes on December 15, 2022. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 529, and NAY on Roll Call No. 530.

INTRODUCTION OF JUSTICE FOR JOURNALISTS ACT OF 2022

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Justice For Journalists Act, mandating an investigation into all non-natural deaths of journalists and media workers in a foreign nation, who are U.S. citizens or working on behalf of a U.S.-based news media entity.

In the last year, we have witnessed many attacks on the rights and safety of journalists and media workers, particularly those who shine a light on violations of human rights and rule of law, war, and other atrocities around the world.

Even reporters covering sporting events may be subject to detainment as we saw in November, when Grant Wahl was detained and briefly refused entry to a World Cup match because he was wearing a rainbow t-shirt in support of LGBTQ rights.

There are several pending bills in Congress with provisions to protect threatened or at-risk journalists working in foreign nations. However, there is no legislation requiring the United States to investigate any non-natural deaths of journalists and media workers performing their duty in a foreign nation. Currently, an act of Congress is required to investigate every single non-natural death—and that cannot stand.

Journalists and media workers report on injustices, corruption, and human rights violations around the world, putting themselves on the frontlines where they risk life and limb.

This year, 65 journalists and media workers have been killed reporting on wars and humanitarian crises around the world. We know

that 17 of them were murdered and the perpetrator had complete impunity from the law. Sadly, there are an additional 64 journalists who are missing, and their families are still waiting on justice.

According to the United Nations, all people enjoy the right to freedom of opinion and expression, which includes the right to seek, receive, and impart information. The United Nations considers the silencing journalists by killing them to be the most egregious form of censorship, and the failure of any State to prosecute and punish serious crimes against journalists denies justice to the victims' families, emboldens perpetrators, and can deter other journalists from reporting high-risk stories.

If the U.S. is going to lead by example, we must do everything we can to defend and protect those who are committed to reporting the truth about the casualties of war, humanitarian crisis, human rights abuses, and corruption.

Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Where the press is free and every man able to read, all is safe." The First Amendment is the foundation of our country. Without free speech and a free press, we would not be the country we are. The citizens of the United States rely on our free press to understand the issues at home and around the world.

Along with diplomacy and military strength, a free press, or the Fourth Estate, is another avenue to challenge the status quo and be a voice for the protection of the rule of law, civil society, and human rights. In their fight for democracy and human dignity, the "weapons" of journalists and media workers are microphones, keypads, and cameras. When one is murdered doing their job, we must identify who is responsible and hold them accountable.

The Justice For Journalists Act, will: Require an investigation into the non-natural deaths of all journalists and media workers in a foreign nation who are U.S. citizens or working on behalf of a U.S.-based news media entity.

Leverage whole-of-government approaches to urge foreign governments to rapidly and transparently bring the perpetrators of attacks against journalists and media workers to justice.

Improve transparency of threats against our Fourth Estate by ensuring reports provided to Congress are also made available to the public on the Department of Justice website, as well as the appropriate Department of State country webpages.

In the words of Walter Cronkite, "Freedom of the press is not just important to democracy, it is democracy."

Madam Speaker, this legislation will protect our free press around the world—and our democracy—now and into the future. I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring the Justice for Journalists Act of 2022.

CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVORSHIP, TREATMENT, ACCESS, AND RESEARCH REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4120, the Childhood Cancer STAR

Reauthorization Act. As Chairwoman of the House Health Subcommittee, I'm proud to have advanced this bipartisan bill and I'm pleased to support it on the Floor today.

I thank Representatives SPEIER, BUTTERFIELD, and MCCAUL for their work on this important bill. I especially would like to recognize Representatives SPEIER and BUTTERFIELD for their longstanding dedication to helping children with cancer and to congratulate them on passing this vital bill on their last days of service in the Congress.

Every day families face the nightmare of a child diagnosed with cancer. Nearly 10,500 children in the U.S. under the age of 15 were diagnosed with cancer in 2022. Today we're delivering hope for those families.

The Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research (STAR) Act is the most comprehensive childhood cancer bill ever passed into law. Since it was signed into law in 2018, the STAR Act has helped deliver over \$120 million to fund childhood cancer research and assist patients and families battling cancer. It expands opportunities for childhood cancer research at the National Cancer Institute, improves efforts to track pediatric cancer incidences, and, importantly, enhances the quality of life for childhood cancer survivors.

Today's legislation is a simple reauthorization of these life-saving programs to ensure there is no lapse in funding or disruption in important research. Today, the Democratic House is delivering for the children and I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.